

and *picinus* are recognized. The California Woodpecker and its races are separated generically as *Balanosphyra* Rgdw., while for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker the generic name *Phrenopicus* Bp. is used. The genus *Ceryle* is divided, *Streptoceryle* being used for *C. alcyon* and *torquata*, and *Chloroceryle* for *C. americana* and its allies.

Several races accepted by the A. O. U. Committee are rejected by Mr. Ridgway as *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii nitidus* Brewster which he regards as not distinct from *P. nitidus*; *Cryptoglaux acadicus scotæus* Osgood which is considered an individual variation of *C. acadicus*; and *Otus flammeolus idahoensis* Merriam which is referred to *O. flammeolus*.

*Melanerpes formicivora* of the Check-List appears as subspecies *aculeata* Mearns, true *formicivora* being exclusively Mexican and in the same way *Dryobates scalaris bairdi* of the Check-List becomes *D. s. symplectus*. *Otus asio* is considered to apply to the Florida Screech Owl which necessitates the use of *O. a. nævius* (Gm.) for the common eastern form, while *O. xantusi* is made a subspecies of *O. asio*.

The footnotes throughout the volume are full of important bibliographic references and synonymy of extralimital forms, while the generic synonymy in the main text contains numerous names with their types designated which are not to be found in other general works.

'The Birds of North and Middle America' is essentially a technical work and only those who are constantly engaged in general systematic ornithology will really appreciate the enormous amount of labor that the author has expended upon it. Mr. Ridgway richly deserves the congratulations of all ornithologists upon the splendid results that he has already accomplished and their best wishes for his success in the volumes that still remain to be completed.—W. S.

#### Chapman on New Birds from Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador.—

Dr. Chapman's studies of the rich series of South American birds obtained by the recent expeditions of the American Museum of Natural History are progressing steadily and two publications relating to them have recently appeared. In the first<sup>1</sup> he calls attention to the need of collections from the Bogotá district of Colombia in order to fix the exact type localities of the 200 species that have been described from there, and describes very briefly the itinerary of the expedition which he conducted to Bogotá in 1913 for the purpose of securing the desired material. Some 2300 specimens representing over 500 species were obtained, and 28 forms are here described as new either from this collection or from that of the previous expedition.

A second paper<sup>2</sup> describes the attempt of Mr. Leo E. Miller and Mr. F. X. Iglseder of the American Museum to reach Mt. Duida on the upper Orinoco.

<sup>1</sup> Diagnoses of apparently new Colombian Birds, II. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXIII, Art. XII, pp. 167-192. March 19, 1914.

<sup>2</sup> Descriptions of a new Genus and Species of Birds from Venezuela. By Frank M. Chapman. do., Art. XIII, pp. 193-197. March 19, 1914.

Unfortunately after about three months' travel, although the base of the mountain was reached, a return had to be made immediately owing to the desperate illness of Mr. Iglseider. A collection of 400 birds was secured on the Upper Orinoco and 600 more at Cristobal Colon, but the avifauna of the mountain still remains unknown. The following new forms are described: *Geotrygon parix* (p. 194), Cristobal Colon; *Neomorphus nigrogularis* (p. 194) foot of Mt. Duida; *Nonnula duidæ* (p. 195), foot of Mt. Duida; *Microxenos* (gen. nov.) *milleri* (p. 196), foot of Mt. Duida. The new genus is allied to *Xenos* but with a straight gonys and square tail of ten feathers, not reaching beyond the closed wings. A third contribution<sup>1</sup> contains descriptions of *Leptotila ochraceiventris* (p. 317), Zaruma; *Speotyto cunicularia punensis* (p. 318), Puna Island; *Pyrrhura albipectus* (p. 319), Zamora; *Tityra semifasciata emeraldæ* (p. 320), Esmeraldas; and *Pitylus nigriceps* (p. 322), Loja — all in Ecuador. Ornithologists will look forward with great interest to Dr. Chapman's final reports and the generalizations which the vast collections at his disposal and his personal knowledge of the zoögeography of the region will enable him to draw.— W. S.

**Mearns on New African Birds.**<sup>2</sup>—In this paper Dr. Mearns continues his studies of the recent collections of British East African birds in the U. S. National Museum. The new forms, all of which are members of the *Pycnonotidæ*, are as follows: *Phyllastrephus strepitans fricki* (p. 1), Tana River; *P. cerviniventris lönnbergi* (p. 2), Tharaka District; *P. placidus keniensis* (p. 2), Mt. Kenia; *Chlorocichla flaviventris meruensis* (p. 3), near Mt. Kenia; *Andropadus fricki* (p. 4), base of Endoto Mt.; *A. f. kitungensis* (p. 4), Kitunga; *Stelgidocichla latirostris pallida* (p. 5), Mt. Gargues, 7,100 ft.; and *S. l. saturata* (p. 6), Honi River, base of Mt. Kenia. — W. S.

**Thayer and Bangs on Birds of the Arctic Coast of East Siberia.**<sup>3</sup>—This paper describes the ornithological results of a trip undertaken by Mr. Johan Koren along the Arctic coast of East Siberia, west to the Kolyma River, made possible by the generosity of Mr. John E. Thayer. The mammals are reported upon by Dr. Glover M. Allen in the same publication.

Mr. Koren's notes are of great importance and as he reached the country before the ice broke up he was able to record the first arrival of the migrants.

<sup>1</sup> Descriptions of New Birds from Ecuador. By Frank M. Chapman. do., Art. XXIII, pp. 317-322. May 22, 1914.

<sup>2</sup> Descriptions of Eight New African Bulbuls. By Edgar A. Mearns. Smithsonian Misc. Collns. Vol. 61, No. 25. (Publ. 2260) February 16, 1914 [received March 11.] pp. 1-6.

<sup>3</sup> Notes on the Birds and Mammals of the Arctic Coast of East Siberia. Birds. By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs. Proc. N. Engl. Zool. Club. V, pp. 1-48. April 9, 1914.